

I. COUNTY DESCRIPTION

A. County Profile

Sevier County established in 1794 was named for John Sevier the first Governor of Tennessee. It is located in the southeastern part of East Tennessee and bordered by Knox and Jefferson Counties to the north, Swain County, North Carolina to the south, Cocke County to the east and Blount County to the west.

Sevierville the eighth oldest town in Tennessee and the county seat of Sevier County was established by an act of the State Legislature July 1795. It is the central shopping center for the county. Sevierville is the birthplace of the famous country singer, Dolly Parton. Dolly's love of the Tennessee Mountains inspired her to invest her time and energy into opening up a first class theme park in Pigeon Forge named "Dollywood".

Surrounded by the Smoky Mountains, Gatlinburg and Pigeon Forge are visited by approximately 9 million guests each year. They are a major tourist attraction for Sevier County, with theme parks, resorts, arcades, golf, horseback riding, craft centers, museums, dinner theaters, ice skating, fishing, camping, mountain climbing, hiking, restaurants, and hundreds of shops. Sevier County offers something for everyone.

Sevier County Community Profile

Location

Region: East Tennessee

Square Miles: 603

Distance from Knoxville: 35 miles

Population (2000 est.)

Total: 62,842

Cities/Towns/Communities

Sevierville

Pigeon Forge

Gatlinburg

Pittman Center

Wear Valley

Dunn Creek

Beech Springs

Knob Creek

Education

3 high schools

6 elementary schools

4 primary schools

2 intermediate schools

4 middle schools

1 special learning center

1 adult high school

1 alternative learning center

1 vocational school

Natural Resources

Minerals: limestone

Timber: Pine, Beech & Oak

Climate

Annual Average Temperature: 59°

Annual Average Precipitation: 45"

Elevation: 942' above sea level

Sevier County Selected Economic Indicators

Annual Labor Force Estimates (1998)

Annual Total Labor Force: 34,226

Number Employed 31,925

Number Unemployed: 2,301

Unemployment Rate %: 6.8

Tax Structure

County Property Tax Rate per \$100 value: \$1.25

*Per Capita Income (1996 est.) : \$20,066